

THE NOXIOUS NEWS

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Check out the Web for more information.

www.nwcb.wa.gov

THEY'RE HERE!!!

By Dana Coggon

Scotch broom



Springtime has arrived, and for many people that means gardening and fun in the outdoors. For the weed people around the state the smell of spring in the air also brings in the excitement of a new noxious weed season. These are the noxious weeds that were reported as blooming throughout the state as of April 15, 2003: herb robert, leafy spurge, myrtle spurge, perennial

pepperweed, Scotch broom, tansy ragwort, and whitetop. (see Images below)

One of the plants currently in bloom is a new arrival to the state weed list. Myrtle spurge is being spotted all across the state. Myrtle spurge is a perennial forb with fleshy trailing stems that are low spreading. Mature plants are 4-6 inches tall and spread up to 18 inches laterally. Fleshy leaves are alternately arranged in close spirals around the stems and are a blue-green in color. The flowers are surrounded by a showy yellow green bract, and are appearing NOW.



If you spot any new weeds blooming that you feel should be added to the state weed list keep in mind that the Noxious Weed Committee is currently taking proposals for 2004 weed list changes. Good luck weed hunting this season and I look forward to getting out and seeing many of these weeds this summer. Please feel free to contact me and let me know what you have blooming in your county. I would like to work on a "blooming schedule" for the weeds in the state, something that should be especially helpful to newer "weed" people. For information on any of the noxious weeds in the state of Washington please check the web site.



Whitetop



Perennial
Pepperweed



Herb Robert



Leafy Spurge

SPARTINA EDUCATION AND ERADICATION PROJECT

by Chris Burt

The *Spartina* Education and Eradication Project" is a collaboration among the Camano and South Whidbey School Districts, Dr. Sally Hacker at WSU, Island County Noxious Weed Control Board, Island County Marine Resources Committee, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Service Education and Adventure, Island County 4-H program, Americorps, Washington Sea Grant, and WSU Cooperative Extension. The project's grant is administered through the South Whidbey School District. Seventh and fifth graders from the two school districts are fighting the noxious aquatic plant, *Spartina Anglica*, this spring with a \$26,000 grant from the Washington Sea Grant Program. On Whidbey Island Langley Middle School students are focusing on Penn Cove shorelines, informing shoreline property owners, educating the larger community, surveying and building GIS maps of the *Spartina* sites, and of course, digging the noxious plant out of the beach areas.

Students have been working in classroom, laboratory and community-based settings toward a comprehensive understanding of the threat *Spartina* species represent to West Coast nearshore/marine environments, specifically those in north Puget Sound. They have also studied the risks and benefits of the various methods of control for *Spartina*. They have begun to act as educators to the larger community. Throughout this entire process, they have achieved Washington State Essential Academic Learning requirements in art, civics, communication, science, social studies, and writing.

Along the way, the Island County Marine Resources Committee, noxious weed control coordinators from other counties, and Educators at Evergreen University have all become interested in the project. The IC Marine Resources Committee even went so far as to contract with the students to collect data to create a *Spartina* map for Penn Cove, educate the associated property owners, and coordinate a community dig for the area.

Students will create informational brochures, a web page and educational videos to inform the community, and other school districts, about *spartina* and its effects on marine habitats. The work is for-credit in class and will become part of the school's science curriculum. Dr. Sally Hacker assists the students in developing science inquiry questions and projects about *spartina*, and maintains a continuous presence throughout the duration of the project. Dr. Hacker visits the classes, filed sites



and communicates with the students via the *Spartina* website.

Students will host a *Spartina* Education and Eradication Conference this May 20 - 24 at the Cornet Bay Environmental Learning Center (ELC). The ELC is located at Deception Pass State Park. At this conference, K - 12 and university students, educators, professionals in the *Spartina* field, and community members will come together to learn more about the work accomplished and the work to be done in the area of *Spartina* eradication and education.

For further information on this project please contact:

Project Coordinators:

Chris Burt -- Service - Education - Adventure / (360) 331- 6034 /

cburt@whidbey.com

Judy Feldman -- Island County 4-H Development Program / (360) 221-

5111 ext. 7328 / judyf@island.co.wa.us

Susie Richards -- Langley Middles School / (360) 221-6198, ext. 3115 / srichards@sw.wednet.edu

SLICK WEED CONTROL

By Nancy Ness

On Saturday April 5, residents of Ocean Shores welcomed the arrival of over 5,000 grass carp to Duck Lake and the freshwater canals. As a mix of rain and snow fell, the carp wriggled out of the truck as over 200 soaked onlookers cheered and directed them to their homes. Ernie Nelson, the newest Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board member and president of Fresh Waterways Corporation was instrumental in seeing the project through from beginning to end.

The fish made a cross-country journey from near Little Rock, Arkansas, and were purchased through a grant from the Department of Ecology. Ernie said that Kathy Hamel's assistance was invaluable.

Grass carp love to eat Brazilian elodea, and Duck Lake has one of the worst infestations in the state. Carp supporters were treated to a fish fry (no, not carp!), and many had adopted their own carp to help raise money for a grant match. For more information on this program contact Nancy Ness, Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board (360) 482-2265(<http://graysharbor.wsu.edu>).





IN BRIEF

WEED ID PROGRAMS FOR COORDINATORS & STAFF. We are bringing back the days of hands on identification training & information. We are looking at having a “half-day” session on weed ID followed by a to-be-announced program in the afternoon. Dana will be contacting individual coordinators to ask that they bring plants in for show and share. She is hoping to get an opportunity to bring in some plants that are just starting to become problematic in specific areas. If you have any ideas or any specific weed that you would like to bring please contact Dana.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE. The newsletter will be published four times per year. Be looking for your new publications on the first days of May, August, November and February. Deadline for materials to be added to the newsletters will be the 15th of July, October, January, and April. Please let Dana know if you have any ideas for the newsletter. All ideas are welcome.

CALL FOR 2004 WEEDS. May 19th will be the first Noxious Weed Committee meeting of 2004. Make sure to get your requests for adding new weeds or changing designations of weeds to the committee prior to the meeting. The requested changes currently are additions of common groundsel as a class C weed, and hoary alyssum as a class B weed. There has also been a request for designation changes for gorse. Verbal requests to take a look at changing the designation status of myrtle spurge have also been received. For more information on these changes or to submit a change or addition to the state weed list, contact Dana.

SLIDES. Dana is currently inventorying all of the weed slides at the state office. She will be providing a list to the counties of what slides are available for the coordinators and what ones the state still needs. She eventually will be scanning all of the slides and making the images available digitally on the web.

2003 PHRAGMITES SURVEY. WSDA has received a grant to document and map known locations of Phragmites and to discover and map any new or previously unknown locations. The mapping will verify the presence and extent of Phragmites populations and invasions. Samples will be taken from each location and will be sent to the Phragmites Diagnostic Service at Cornell University for testing to determine whether the genotype is native or introduced. This information will be layered on maps to show where the invasive variety is present. A report will be prepared to summarize the information and to summarize known treatment regimes. The mapping and report will form the basis for the future development of a management plan that will provide site-specific suggestions for control of the invasive stands. Greg Haubrich plans on having an employee on board by June 1st and many of you will be contacted by him/her to ask if you have any known locations of Phragmites in your county. Any help you can provide will be much appreciated.

AQUATIC HERBICIDE CONTROL PERMITS. A reminder that coverage for herbicide application to aquatic or emergent noxious and quarantine weeds is again available under WSDA’s NPDES permit. The application for the permit is online at <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/AquaticPestApp/applogin.asp>.

STATE WEED DISTRIBUTION MAPS. A gentle reminder that Greg would like your county weed distribution data returned as soon as possible. He hopes to begin to create the new maps next week, and would hate to have to use asterisks next to SOME counties indicating their data is not current. Thanks to those counties that have already replied.

KNOTWEED WORKING GROUPS. Primary objective this year for the Skagit Knotweed working group is to continue control efforts on patches that were treated in 2002, and continue to build a map of knotweed locations. Their initial plan will be focused on knotweed in upper Skagit and may broaden to other species of concern in the area. Laurel Shiner in Whatcom County received a CIPM grant this year for their knotweed working group on the Nooksack river. The group and plan on working on mapping the current infestations for use to treat the locations in the future. If you have any questions about either of these groups contact Heather Rogers [hrogers@tnc.org] for the Skagit group and Laurel Shiner [LShiner@co.whatcom.wa.us] for the Nooksack group.

Executive Secretary's Corner

NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATIONS SPONSOR INVASIVE SPECIES FORUM

By Steve McGonigal

Some of the top environmental foundations in the Pacific Northwest sponsored a full day forum on invasive species in Seattle March 27.

Held at the REI flagship store, the forum of over 100 participants was organized by the Bullitt Foundation and the McDanel Land Foundation.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Jamie Reaser, executive director of the U.S. office of the Global Invasive Species Program, as well as president of the newly established Ecos Systems Institute.

Dr. Brad White of the Washington State Department of Agriculture described the efforts to eradicate citrus longhorned beetle after it was discovered in Tukwila in 2001. The program required the removal of most trees within two hundred meters of the discovery, and the injection of other host plants farther away.

Dr. Sarah Reichard of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture, a member of the WSNWCB's Noxious Weed Committee, gave her estimates of the number of potentially invasive plants there are in the world. If there are 260,000 species of vascular plants in the world, and 10 percent are good colonizers, then there are 26,000 potential weed species, Dr. Reichard calculated. If 10,000 of those are already recognized, and 4,000 have already been exchanged, then there are 22,000 potential weeds not yet exchanged. "So, the worst is yet to come," she predicted. She urged participants not to make the fight against invasive plants "an issue of natives only."

From the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Dr. Dan Hilburn said "We need a '*Silent Spring*' for this issue, referring to the book that is credited with helping to start the environmental movement in the 1960's.

There were several other speakers, and a copy of the biographies and abstracts can be obtained from the WSNWCB office. The day ended with themed roundtable discussions to plan future action. Several speakers characterized the day as a watershed event that would cause environmental organizations to be more supportive of invasive species work.

WESTERN WEED COORDINATING COMMITTEE Tackles Varied Agenda in Nevada

By Steve McGonigal

The annual meeting of the Western Weed Coordinating Committee brought federal and state government officials with noxious weed duties in the west together in Nevada April 3 and 4.

Representatives from Washington, New Mexico, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, Utah, Nevada and Colorado shared information on a wide range of common interests. The Washington State Department of Agriculture was represented by Greg Haubrich, and Steve McGonigal participated for the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003, pending legislation that would authorize up to \$100 million in federal funding annually to local weed management entities, was fully discussed. The Senate version, S 144, has now passed the Senate. Similar legislation in the House of Representatives is House Resolution 119. While the bills authorize spending, getting the money actually appropriated would have to be accomplished through the budgeting process.

State representatives compared and contrasted features of their state and local programs, strategic plans and recent legislative activity. Other states' personnel were interested that Senate Bill 5108 was introduced in this year's Washington State Legislature, and the impacts it would have had on the ability of weed managers to enter properties if it had passed into law. Cooperative weed management areas were discussed, as were weed-free forage and mulch programs.

Federal officials of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service similarly outlined the highlights of their programs and any recent changes. Of special interest to Washington State is the Environmental Impact Statement currently being written by the U.S. Forest Service for the 20 forests in Washington and Oregon. A draft of that plan will be released for public comment in July.



WEED VIDEO AND GOAT WORKSHOP ARE AMONG YEAR'S SPECIAL PROJECTS



A video about noxious weeds statewide and a workshop on using goats in weed control are among the activities benefiting from funding through the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board's Special Projects program this year.

A partnership of Washington State University and several county weed boards, the video project will produce a video or DVD that will cover Washington's weed laws and several other subjects. Included will be aquatics, agriculture, ornamentals, rights of way, forests and natural areas. The WSNWCB is providing \$3,000 to the project.

Klickitat County NWCB and WSU will collaborate to conduct a workshop on "Using Goats as Weed Control Agents," in a project receiving \$2,000 through the Special Projects program. County weed board and weed district staffs will be invited to the workshop, which will be held in May or June at a location still to be selected.

The Special Projects Committee, with the approval of the State Weed Board, set aside \$5,000 for use by the Washington State Department of Agriculture in enforcing the state's noxious weed law.

At least \$1,500 will be provided through the WSNWCB Special Projects program for a project entitled "Biological Control of Invasive Hawkweeds." The project, which has received similar funding in prior years, also receives funding from the Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board. Through work at CABI Bioscience in Switzerland, the project has sought hawkweed biocontrol insects. The application stated "... we anticipate requesting permission from the USDA to release insects in Washington, Idaho and Montana in 2004."

Work toward eradication of the state's only known infestation of a Class A weed, eggleaf spurge, will continue with \$500 in Special Projects money again this year. The weed is on San Juan County's Orcas Island.

Jefferson County residents and others will see a Spring Public Awareness program focusing on noxious weeds, with the assistance of \$1,500 in Special Projects funding. Inserts will be published in both newspapers that serve that county's residents, offering education about the county's weed list, the county weed board and state weed law. A report from the Jefferson County NWCB will make recommendations for the conduct and refinement of similar programs there and elsewhere.

The new Mecinus stem-boring weevil will be released, studied and established for future collection on dense stands of Dalmatian toadflax in Garfield County with \$2,000 of Special Projects funding. The County Noxious Weed Control Board and Dr. Gary Piper and Dr. David Bragg of WSU will cooperate in the work.

Questions about the State Weed Board's Special Projects program can be directed to Steve McGonigal at (360) 902-2053 or smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov.

TWO STATE BOARD SEATS Open For Nominations

Nominations will open soon for two seats on the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

Board seat number two represents the county weed boards in Adams, Whitman, Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton, Klickitat and Yakima Counties. Currently serving in that seat is Jerry Hendrickson, a member of the Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Board seat number four represents the county weed boards in Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, Grant, Kittitas, Chelan and Douglas Counties. Currently serving in that seat is Joe Coombs, a member off the Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board.

In each case, only voting members of the county weed boards represented by a board position can nominate, vote or be elected in the balloting for that position. Those elected will serve three-year terms, beginning July 26, 2003.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS CAN BE DIRECTED TO STEVE MCGONIGAL, AT (360) 902-2053, OR AT SMCGONIGAL@AGR.WA.GOV.

Coordinators Connection

THANK YOU FROM THE EX-COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

BY KEVIN HUPP

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as president of the Coordinator's Association. It was a privilege and honor to represent such a diverse and professional group. Thanks to all of you who responded to the questions I asked of you. You told me what you thought and directed me through various situations. I had a blast and will miss it dearly at some point. I can only hope that I represented you half as much as you helped me. You all deserve a pat on the back for being who you are and being a part of a great organization. I would pat all of you on the back myself, but I know that would probably be violating some/most sexual harassment policies. A special thanks to Laurel for creating what she thought was a "weed jeopardy knapweed crown" and allowing me to pass it along as the "Presidential Knapweed Crown". Thank you again and I hope you have a productive weed season.

WELCOME TO THE NEW COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Sonny Gohrman has been named the Coordinator Association President for 2003-2004. Sonny is the Coordinator for the Snohomish County Noxious Weed Board. He started as the Spartina Coordinator in spring of 1996, and was then hired as Noxious Weed Coordinator in September of 1999. In 1994, Sonny chose to change his career path (from what?) and received an Environmental Conservation degree. During his last quarter at school, he was hired by the Swinomish Tribe in Skagit County to do survey and owner notification for Spartina. From there he moved to Snohomish County.



Sonny is looking forward to his role as the President of the Association. He is also looking forward to working with the State Weed Board. He hopes that getting representation on the strategic plan committee of the State Weed Board proves to be a good way for the Association to give direct input to the Board at the planning stage. Sonny notes, "Although there have been some rough spots, and sometimes we aren't as PC as we should be, we have a good association. We need to work together to make our programs more effective by working together toward consistent funding and a higher level of awareness of the environmental and economic importance of noxious weed control".

NEW WEED PEOPLE

In the last few months we have had many new faces appear in the Washington weed world. In this section I would like to take a moment to introduce you to the new people and allow you an opportunity to make them each feel welcome. If you get an opportunity please contact them and welcome them to the Washington Weed World.

NEW WEED COORDINATORS:

King County has hired Steve Burke as their new County Weed Coordinator. Steve has a Bachelor's Degree (make it the same as Master's Degree-either capitalize both or don't cap. Both) in Forest Science and a Master's Degree in Agricultural Sciences. Most recently he has been working on riparian and wetland ecosystem restoration projects on the West Coast with a Seattle based environmental consultancy firm. Prior to this he was with the King County Noxious Weed Control program as a noxious weed specialist. Steve is originally from Australia and has a long history of managing state level natural resource management programs ranging from noxious weeds, vertebrate pests, private forestry and community based revegetation. He can be reached at: [Steve-J.Burke@metrokc.gov], 206-205-6927

San Juan County has hired Judy Jackson as the assistant coordinator. Judy is a long time county resident with a strong background in field and research work. Among her many duties will be developing a mapping system, organizing volunteer weed pulls and doing other community work.

Island County has a new coordinator, **Susan Horton**. Susan is originally from TX and has been a homeowner in Island Co. since 1988. She graduated from Western Washington University (1993) with a Biology - Terrestrial Ecology degree. Susan has worked as an Environmental Health Specialist in Okanogan County and is looking forward to the challenges of being the county weed coordinator. Susan hopes to better the Island County program by being an innovative thinker and working hard. She can be reached at: [susanh@co.island.wa.us], 360.679.7327

NEW LEAD INSPECTORS/COUNTY POSITIONS:

Stevens County is proud to announce Cindy Jennings as the County Lead (pronounced leed, not led) Inspector. Cindy has been a seasonal inspector for the weed board since 1997 and her dedication to the job in spite of the low pay, no benefits, "interesting" landowners and rather less than glamorous working conditions-finally paid off in an "almost full time" position! Her new title now gives her the run of the field and the office. Cindy will help to coordinate the rest of the field crew and will now get to work in each of the inspector areas instead of just her own. You may remember that Cindy won the seed identification contest in Yakima last year. The fact that she donated the cash prize to the office kitty in NO WAY influenced Sue to hire Cindy for this position.

Lewis County has hired a Weed Specialist. Crystal Nelson will be working with Bill to keep a handle on noxious weeds in Lewis County. In Crystal's own words "the noise volume in the Lewis County weed board office has risen. Crystal is a recent Graduate of Horticulture and Crops program at Washington State University. She is an outdoor enthusiast who is excited to be working with the weeds group. Crystal's contact information :cjnelson@co.lewis.wa.us (360) 740-1218

Coordinators Spotlight

I have created this section to get an idea of who the coordinators are and to allow each of you the opportunity to get to know some of the newer weed people. For this round I have chosen Nelle Murray as the spotlighted coordinator.

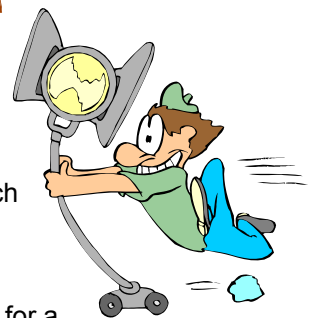
Nelle is the Coordinator for Asotin County's Noxious Weed Board. She was hired in March of 2002. She comes to the weed world with a diverse background. She graduated with a degree in botany from Humboldt State University in 1973. She then worked as a Fishery Biologist with Alaska Dept of Fish and Game for 7 years in Kodiak. While looking for further excitement, she was a packer for brown bear guides on the south end of Kodiak and worked for a year as a roughneck on an oilrig on the North Slope. She then ended up as a commercial salmon fisherman on the south end of Kodiak. Nelle has a husband who was the sport fish biologist for Kodiak and the Aleutians. He retired in 1990 and started commercial fishing with her. They have one daughter who grew up in fish totes during the summer months. They home schooled their daughter through the 7th grade and moved to Asotin in search of great weather and an outstanding school system. Nelle then volunteered for the last Asotin County coordinator and took over the position when it became open.

Nelle states that the most rewarding part of this job is working with the residents of Asotin County. From the Commissioners, to the Assessors Office, to the Asotin Road Department, these are people who like what they are doing and couldn't be more helpful to the Weed Program. The members of the Weed Board are committed to an energetic weed program and give many hours over and above their Board time to help out the programs.

Nelle spends a great deal of time with the 4-H program and the local FFA groups. Nelle states, "What I love to do is hike, talk to people, and work on various projects - so this is a great job for me". Nelle notes that her biggest roadblocks are poor funding and the lack of a fulltime position for the Coordinator.

When asked where Nelle's favorite vacation spot was she responded with what I am learning is a typical response from someone as on the go as Nelle. She stated that "from 1990 to 1999, my husband, daughter and I traveled during the winters and fished in the summers....we home schooled her so it didn't matter where we went...we took our backpacks to Europe, Hawaii, Central America and ended up buying a place on the Caribbean coast just 5 miles north of Belize. When we studied U.S history, we drove across the U.S and visited the places that we studied...When we wanted to study the desert, we went to the desert ...- we were big on the sciences and not so big on the arts. We spent some winters in a remote cabin that we have in Kodiak. However, with all of the places we've been, we absolutely love Asotin. This is our retirement home".

I just have one more thing to add, I would like to thank Nelle for taking the time to let me get to know her. Welcome aboard and keep up the good work.



2003 STATE WEED BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

May 19 – 2 p.m. Special Meeting: Statewide Weed Management Plan Best Western Summit Inn 603 State Route 906 Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068	May 20 – 8:30 a.m. Regular Meeting Best Western Summit Inn 603 State Route 906 Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068	July 15 – 8:30 a.m. Regular Meeting Grant County Public Works 124 Enterprise Street S.E. Ephrata, WA 98823
September 16 – 8:30 a.m. Regular Meeting WSU Cooperative Extension 201 West Patison Port Hadlock, WA 98339	November 18 – 8:30 Regular Meeting and Hearing on 2004 Noxious Weed List Washington Cattlemen's Association 1301 Dolarway Ellensburg, WA	January 2004 Olympia

UP COMING EVENTS:

DATE	"TITLE"	CONTACT PEOPLE
MAY 6	Mason County "Guide to Managing Weeds" Presentation	Bob Simons (360)427-9670
MAY 17	Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Weed Aware(ness?) Workshop (Check the web for the Flyer)	Danielle D'Auria (360) 753-9467
MAY 21-22	Spartina Education Conference (Check the web for the Flyer)	Susie Richards – srichards@sw.wednet.edu - 360-221-5100, ext. 3115
MAY 28	East Side Weed ID Work Shop	Dana Coggon (360)902-2082
MAY 30	West Side Weed ID Work Shop	Dana Coggon (360)902-2082

CHECK THE WEB FOR CURRENT UPCOMMING EVENTS :

http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/events/up_coming_eventsmay2003.htm